

In the Drawings:

Please replace the four drawing sheets including Figures 4, 5, 6, and 10-12 with the four replacement sheets being filed herewith.

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 6, 2007 and the references cited therein have been carefully studied and, in view of the above changes and the following representations, reconsideration and allowance are most respectfully requested.

Applicants first wish to express their appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-4 and 8-9. Applicants believe that they have made a valuable contribution to the art and the Examiner's recognition of the same is appreciated.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings in that Figures 4-6 should be labeled as "Prior Art." Also, the Examiner states that reference numeral 132 in Figure 12 is not mentioned in the specification. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's comments and have made the appropriate corrections to the drawings in the replacement sheets being filed herewith. Specifically, Applicants have designated Figures 4-6 as Prior Art and have corrected the typographical error found in Figure 12 by changing reference numeral 132 to reference numeral 162. Applicants believe that the drawings now are in proper form and that the Examiner's objections have been overcome.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(4) because reference numeral 114 has been used to designate both a filtering unit and a centrifugal filtering unit; reference numeral has been used to designate both an expanded chamber and a sealed chamber; and reference numeral 130 has been used to designate an outlet nozzle and a returning nozzle. Applicants respectfully disagree.

First, as a technical observation, Applicants believe that the Examiner's objection to the drawings is improper. The drawings do not designate a single reference numeral to

multiple structural features. If there be any objections, they should be directed toward the specification. However, contrary to the Examiner's belief that each of the reference numerals mentioned above refers to two different structures, Applicants believe that the specification adequately describes the invention. For example, the centrifugal filtering unit is the same structure as the filtering unit but worded in a more specific manner. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended the specification in order to even further clarify Applicants' invention.

The Examiner has objected to the specification based on a typographical error misspelling the term "expanded." Applicants have corrected the spelling of the term and believe that this overcomes the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 6-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that it is unclear as to where in the specification it is disclosed that the expanded chamber is located after the filtering means. Applicants respectfully disagree but have amended Claim 6 in order to more clearly define their invention in light of the specification.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Examiner states that Claim 1 and 9 are unclear as to the structural relationship of the managing unit to the foot portion and that Claim 9 is unclear as to what is meant by the expanded chamber being located after the filtering means. Applicants respectfully disagree as far as this rejection is understood.

Applicants believe that the Examiner is referring to the language found in Claims 1 and 6, not Claim 9, since such language is not found in Claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants have

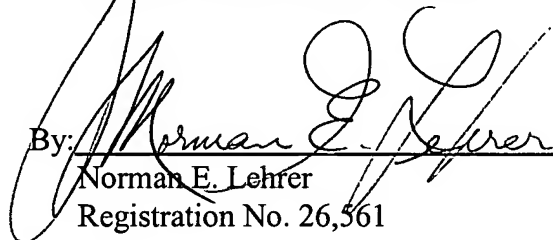
amended Claims 1 and 6 in order to overcome the Examiner's rejection. If Applicants' understanding is incorrect, Applicants' respectfully request that the Examiner clarify her rejection and restart the time for Applicants to respond.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 3 and have cancelled Claim 3. Applicants have also amended Claim 4 in order to properly depend from Claim 1. Claim 6 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 8 and have cancelled Claim 8. Applicants have not rewritten Claim 6 to include the limitations of intervening Claim 7 because Claim 7 does not include the allowable features of the invention indicated by the Examiner. Claim 9 has been amended in order to properly depend from Claim 6. Therefore, Applicant believes that Claims 1, 4-7, 9, and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims clearly and patentably distinguish over the references of record. It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance and an early action toward that end is most respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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